

# SHENANDOAH VALLEY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1934 DEYERLE AVENUE, SUITE B

HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

PHONE: (540) 534-3105 OR (800) 528-3276



We work with the people who work the land.

The Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District offers technical assistance, as well as financial assistance and state tax credit for a variety of best management practices (BMPs) through the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program (VACS). The program offers more than 70 conservation practices that cover the full spectrum of agricultural operations. The Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) frequently partner to assist producers with their conservation efforts. Outlined below are a few of the common practices installed in our area. For additional practices contact the Conservation District.

## Stream Fencing and Alternative Watering Systems

Fencing livestock out of streams improves stream health by minimizing streambank erosion and eliminating direct deposition of livestock waste. Providing centralized water and utilizing cross fence allows producers to maximize grazing of available forages.

### Eligible Components

- Exclusion and cross fence
- Watering trough(s) and pipeline
- Well and pump components
- Stream crossing
- Other components deemed eligible



### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 55% - 100% of total estimated project costs based on the setback and lifespan

Setback	Lifespan	Cost Share Rate
10 ft.	10 years	60%
10 ft.	15 years	65%
25 ft.	10 years	70%
25 ft.	15 years	75%
35 ft.	10 years	85%
35 ft.	15 years	90%
50 ft.	10 years	95%
50 ft.	15 years	100%

- Buffer payment: \$80 per acre on projects with 35 ft. or 50 ft. setbacks
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses

## Cropland Conversion to Hay or Pasture

Conversion of cropland to hay or pasture provides year-round ground cover reducing soil erosion. Mixed stands of grasses and/or legumes are recommended.

### Eligible Components

- Seed and planting costs
- Soil test
- Lime and fertilizer as needed
- Herbicides and pesticides



### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rate

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Incentive Payment: \$25 per acre incentive payment for 5 year lifespan, \$100 per acre incentive payment for 10 year lifespan, and \$150 per acre incentive payment for 15 year lifespan

## Winter Cover Crops

Cover crops prevent soil erosion, reduce runoff and take up excess nitrogen that otherwise would leach into groundwater. As biomass from crop residues accumulates, it improves soil structure and tilth, while also improving moisture retention and drought resistance.

### Eligible Small Grain Species

- Rye, Wheat, Barley, Triticale and Mixtures

### Cost Share or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share:
  - Harvestable Small Grain
    - \$20 per acre if harvested for feed or seed/grain and residue removed (Straw can be baled)
    - \$30 per acre if harvested for seed/grain ONLY and residue remains on the field (Straw cannot be bailed)
  - Non-Harvestable Small Grain: \$40-\$90 per acre
  - Non-Harvestable Small Grain with Fall Manure Application: \$15-\$45 per acres
  - Protective Cover for Specialty Crop: \$40 per acre
  - Cover Crop for Managing Liquid or Semi-Solid Manure: \$35 per acre
  - Legume Cover Crop: \$45 per acre
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses



## Pre-Sidedress Nitrogen Testing for Corn

By testing the soil when the corn is 8-15 inches in height at the whorl, nitrogen can be applied just ahead of the plant's peak demand. Test results indicate the available amount of nitrogen and can be used to determine the amount of nitrogen to be side dressed.

### Eligible Components

- Soil test(s)
- Nitrogen application

### Cost Share or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: \$12 per soil test AND up to \$8 per acre for following nitrogen recommendation
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses



## Tree Planting on Crop or Pasture Land

Establishes trees and/or shrubs on land used for crop, hay or pasture to more effectively control erosion, provide wildlife habitat and benefit aquatic environments.

### Eligible Components

- Site preparation, trees and planting cost
- Other components deemed eligible

### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs AND \$100-\$250 per acre incentive payment based on type of trees planted and lifespan
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses



## Animal Waste Storage Facilities

Animal waste storage facilities are planned systems, designed to manage liquid and/or solid waste from areas where livestock and poultry are concentrated. These facilities allow waste to be stored and spread at the proper time, rate and location reducing pollution and helping control surface runoff to improve water quality.

### Litter Storage Shed and/or Composting Facility

These facilities are designed for poultry producers who need litter storage and/or composting facilities to meet the needs of their operation.



### Liquid Manure Pit

These facilities are designed for producers who need liquid storage for manure generated on their operation.



### Dry Stack Manure Storage Facility

These facilities are designed for producers who need dry manure storage as a result of confined feeding on their operation.



### Winter Feeding Facility

These facilities are designed for producers who feed livestock in a concentrated location seasonally as part of their operation.



### Confined Livestock Loose Housing Facility

These facilities are designed for producers who feed livestock in a concentrated location year-round as part of their operation. These facilities are designed for 100% confinement.



### Eligible Components of all Animal Waste Storage Facilities

- Engineering services
- Excavation and construction
- Other components deemed eligible

### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses

## Roof Runoff Management System

Manages roof runoff by installing gutters on existing agricultural structures in areas where runoff comes into contact with animal waste such as in barnyards and feeding areas.

### Eligible Components

- Gutters
- Downspouts
- Drainlines
- Other components deemed eligible



### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses

## Loose Housing Facility & Loafing Lot Management System

Prevents manure, soil and nutrient runoff from denuded lots that are exposed to heavy livestock traffic by dividing the area into grass lots where cattle are rotated, as necessary, to maintain adequate vegetative cover. A loose housing facility is installed for use during periods of wet weather to prevent damage to the loafing lots.

### Eligible Components

- Fencing
- Walkways
- Watering system
- Loose housing facility
- Other components deemed eligible

### Cost Share and/or Tax Credit Rates

- Cost Share: 75% of total estimated project costs
- Tax Credit: 25% of eligible out-of-pocket expenses



## Stream Exclusion Continuing Conservation Initiative

Offers an incentive payment to maintain fences that exclude livestock from waterbodies. Voluntarily installed fencing or fencing that was installed through a conservation program and is out of lifespan is eligible. Fencing currently in lifespan with any state, federal or other conservation program is not eligible.

### Cost Share Incentive Rates

- \$.50 - \$1.25 per linear foot of stream bank protected
- \$50 per acre of herbaceous buffer with at least 35 ft. setback
- \$200 per acre of forested buffer with at least 35 ft. setback
- \$500 per stream crossing/controlled hardened access
- \$250 per permanent trough
- \$1,000 per watering system
- This practice is not eligible to receive tax credit



## Animal Waste Continuing Conservation Initiative

Offers an incentive payment to maintain animal waste storage structures and/or composting facilities. Voluntarily installed structures or structures that were installed through a conservation program and are out of lifespan are eligible. Structures currently in lifespan with any state, federal or other conservation program are not eligible.

### Cost Share Incentive Rates

- Poultry Waste Storage
  - \$5,000 per Waste Storage Facility
  - \$1.50 per Animal Unit (1,000 lbs.) based on current operation's annual bird numbers
- Non-Poultry Waste Storage
  - \$5,000 per Waste Storage Facility
  - \$25 per Animal Unit (1,000 lbs.) based on current herd size
- Mortality Composting Facility
  - \$250 per bin or bin equivalent
- This practice is not eligible to receive tax credit



*The Commonwealth of Virginia supports the Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water Conservation District through financial and administrative assistance provided by the Virginia Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Department of Conservation & Recreation.  
An equal opportunity provider and employer.*